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**FACSIMILE COVER SHEET**

DATE: January 15, 2002 FAX Number: 202-307-1454  
DELIVER TO John Ashcroft - Attorney General  
REFERENCE: Microsoft Settlement  
SENT FROM: Christopher Carlyle  
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January 13, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am the owner of my own realty and contracting firm. When I was first starting out and needed to set up an accounting system for payroll and accounts payable, I looked into a software system to handle my needs. I was quoted \$11,000. I couldn't afford that. With Microsoft, I could get a software package doing the same thing for \$1500. Bill Gates, through Microsoft, has revolutionized the computer software industry, making software programs easier to understand and more affordable. No other firms did this. For his reward, Bill Gates was hauled into court. I was, and still am, opposed to the antitrust lawsuit brought against Microsoft. Bill Gates took risks and succeeded. This country is where it is today because there were people who took risks and succeeded. What is different today, is that we punish success. We allow success, but only so much. If it goes beyond what government thinks "proper" the company is hauled into court.

Microsoft is very important to this country. It is the engine that drives technological innovation. Microsoft provides thousands of jobs directly, and thousands more with the spin-off of their technological expertise. I support this settlement, and look forward to the end of this persecution of Microsoft.

Sincerely,



Christopher Carlyle